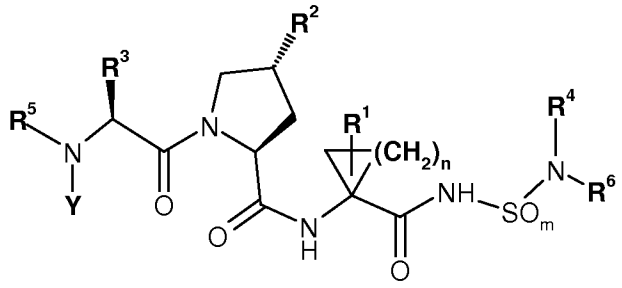
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

n is 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, wherein each of said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from $-CH_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-NH-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-S-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-SO-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-SO_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-CH_2O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, and $-O-\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein

X is (C_{2-3})alkenyl, (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het**, wherein said $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$; wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, $-O\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-S\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-N(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and $-CON(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, aryl, $-CO-(C_{1-6})$alkyl and $-CO-O-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl

is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R}^{2000}$;

$\mathbf{R}^{202}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2000}$ in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, $-O\mathbf{R}^{2001}$, $-S\mathbf{R}^{2001}$, $-SO\mathbf{R}^{2001}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R}^{2001}$, cyano, $-N(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2001})$, and $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and $-O-(C_{1-6})$alkyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2001}$ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, $-C(O)-\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, $-C(O)O-\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, $-CON(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$ and $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$;

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ in each case is independently selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ in each case is independently selected from H and $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$;

$\mathbf{R}^{3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, halogen, cyano, $-O\mathbf{R}^{30}$, $-S\mathbf{R}^{30}$, $-C(=O)O\mathbf{R}^{30}$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, aryl, and aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, wherein $\mathbf{R}^{30}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-;

$\mathbf{R}^{5}$ is selected from **B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-C(=O)-; **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO_2- and **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-SO_2-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, $-COO(C_{1-6})$alkyl, -OH, halogen, $-OC(=O)(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-6})$alkyl, $-N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$alkyl and $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently

from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$;

(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$; and

(v) (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted when R^5 is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -CO-NH_2, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, –COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and

heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, $-CO-NH_2$, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -COOH, and -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)- or **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-, wherein

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is H; and

B is selected from (C_{1-10})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl,

a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C_{1-4})alkyl; and

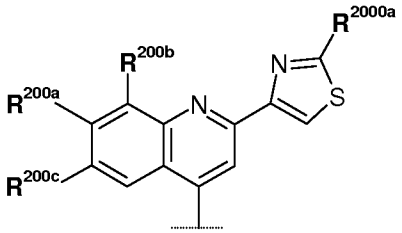
c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) $-CH_2$-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$;

then

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ cannot be



wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$ is H, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, –OH, –O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl or -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$;

$\mathbf{R}^{200b}$, $\mathbf{R}^{200c}$ are each independently halogen, cyano, (C_{1-4})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -SO-(C_{1-4})alkyl, or -SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$ or $\mathbf{R}^{200c}$ (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$ and $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$ or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$ and $\mathbf{R}^{200c}$ may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two -CH_2-groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by -O- or N$\mathbf{R}^{a}$ wherein $\mathbf{R}^{a}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2000a}$ is $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, -N($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)C$\mathbf{OR}^{2003}$, -N($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)C$\mathbf{OOR}^{2003}$, -N($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)($\mathbf{R}^{2004}$), or -N($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)CON($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)($\mathbf{R}^{2004}$), wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ is H or methyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ is H or $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein

n is 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, wherein each of said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from $-CH_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-NH-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-S-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-SO-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-SO_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-CH_2O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, and $-O-\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein

X is (C_{2-3})alkenyl, (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het**, wherein said $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$; wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, $-O\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-S\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-N(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and $-CON(\mathbf{R^{202}})\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, aryl, $-CO-(C_{1-6})$alkyl and $-CO-O-(C_{1-6})$alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{202}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2000}}$ in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, $-O\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, $-S\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, $-SO\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, cyano, $-N(\mathbf{R^{2002}})(\mathbf{R^{2001}})$, and $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and $-O-(C_{1-6})$alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, $-C(O)-\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, $-C(O)O-\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, $-CON(\mathbf{R^{2002}})(\mathbf{R^{2004}})$ and $\mathbf{R^{2004}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{2002}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$ in each case is independently selected from (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{2004}}$ in each case is independently selected from H and $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, halogen, cyano, -O$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -S$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -C(=O)O$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -$NH_2$, -NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, aryl, and aryl$(C_{1-6})$alkyl-, wherein $\mathbf{R^{30}}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-; **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO_2- and **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-SO_2-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C_{1-6})alkyl, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2,

-NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$; and

(v) (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted when R^5 is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -CO-NH_2, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, –COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -CO-NH_2, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is **B**-O-C(=O)- or **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-, wherein

$\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is H; and

B is selected from (C_{1-10})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl,

a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-,

di- or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C_{1-4})alkyl; and

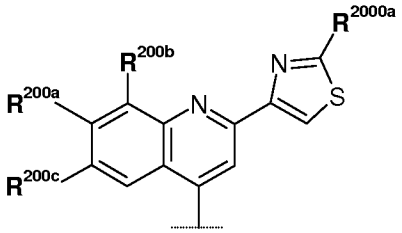
c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH_2-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$;

then

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ cannot be



wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ is H, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, –OH, –O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl or -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$;

$\mathbf{R^{200b}}$, $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ are each independently halogen, cyano, (C_{1-4})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -SO-(C_{1-4})alkyl, or -SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either $\mathbf{R^{200b}}$ or $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{200b}}$ or

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one

or two -CH_2-groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by -O- or N$\mathbf{R^a}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^a}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{2000a}}$ is $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)CO$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)COO$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2004}}$), or -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)CON($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2004}}$), wherein

$\mathbf{R^{2002}}$ is H or methyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{2004}}$ is H or $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$;

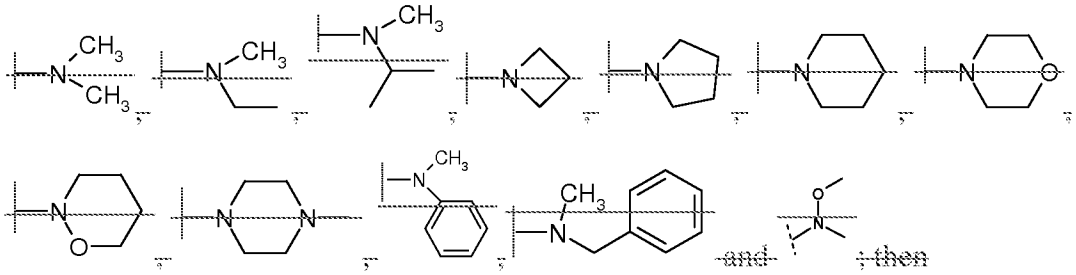
~~and with the further proviso that when:~~

~~R^6 is B-O-C(=O)- and B is selected from methyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl; and~~

~~R^3 is 1,1-dimethylethyl; and~~

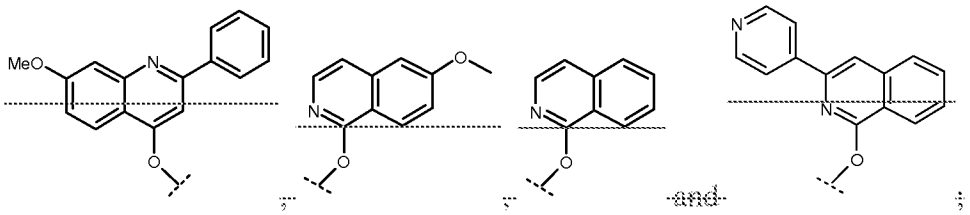
~~R^1 is ethenyl; and~~

~~the group $-N(R^4)R^6$ is selected from:~~



~~and~~ ~~; then~~

~~R^3 is not selected from:~~



~~and~~

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or

aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

3. **(Currently amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O)-; wherein **B** and $\mathbf{R^{51}}$ are defined as in claim 1, provided that B is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted when R^5 is B-O-C(=O)-.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein $\mathbf{R^{51}}$ is H and **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-7})alkyl optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with -$COOCH_3$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-methyl-, each optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy;

(iii) benzyl; and

(iv) **Het**, wherein **Het** comprises a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocyle having one to four heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N, and S, which may be saturated or unsaturated or aromatic;

provided that B is not (C_{1-7})alkyl unsubstituted when R^5 is B-O-C(=O)-.

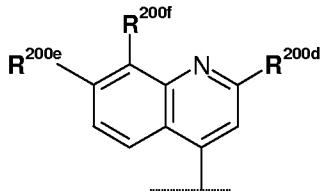
5. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **Y** is H.

6. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, the (C_{1-8})alkyl being optionally substituted with hydroxy, (C_{1-6})alkoxy or -C(=O)O$\mathbf{R^{30}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{30}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-.

7. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, -S-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, and -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ and **X** are defined as in claim 1.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein **X** is (C_3)alkynyl and $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is $(C_6$ or $C_{10})$aryl.

9. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

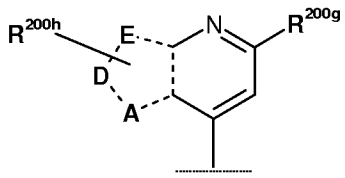
$\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{200e}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200f}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl optionally further substituted with (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or phenyl.

10. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 9 wherein $\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is ethyl.

11. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein $\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$\mathbf{R^{200g}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl or (C_{2-6})alkenyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl and $-SO_2$-(C_{1-6})alkyl; wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

12. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **n** is 1.

13. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$ is (C_{2-6})alkenyl or (C_{2-6})alkyl.

14. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **m** is 2.

15. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

(i) $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

(ii) $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three

substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$, -COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from $-CH_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, -NH-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, -S-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, -SO-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-SO_2-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $-CH_2O-\mathbf{R^{20}}$, and -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein

X is (C_{2-3})alkenyl, (C_{2-3})alkynyl, or (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C_6 or C_{10})aryl or **Het** is optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with $\mathbf{R^{200}}$, wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200}}$ is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -SO$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, and -CON($\mathbf{R^{202}}$)$\mathbf{R^{201}}$; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{201}}$ in each case is independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, -CO-(C_{1-6})alkyl and -CO-O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with $\mathbf{R^{2000}}$;

$\mathbf{R^{202}}$ is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2000}}$ is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -O$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, -S$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, -SO$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, $-SO_2\mathbf{R^{2001}}$, cyano, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2001}}$), and $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl and -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2001}}$ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, -C(O)-

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, –C(O)O-$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, -CON($\mathbf{R}^{2002}$)($\mathbf{R}^{2004}$) and $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$;

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ is H or $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$;

$\mathbf{R}^{3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-3})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{2-6})alkenyl, halogen, cyano, -O$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -S$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -C(=O)O$\mathbf{R}^{30}$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, aryl, and aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, wherein $\mathbf{R}^{30}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-;

$\mathbf{R}^{5}$ is selected from **B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-C(=O)-; **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO_2- and **B**-N($\mathbf{R}^{51}$)-SO_2-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C_{1-6})alkyl, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2,

-NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH$_2$, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$; and

(v) (C_{2-6})alkenyl, or (C_{2-6})alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

R^{51} is selected from H and (C_{1-6})alkyl;

provided that **B** is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted, when **R^5** is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or (C_{1-6})alkyl;

R^4 and **R^6** are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH$_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -CO-NH$_2$, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, –COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

R^4 and **R^6** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH$_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -CO-NH$_2$, -CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$, -COOH, and –COO(C_{1-6})alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

R^5 is **B**-O-C(=O)- or **B**-N(**R^{51}**)-C(=O)-, wherein

R^{51} is H; and

B is selected from (C_{1-10})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl,

a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C_{1-4})alkyl; and

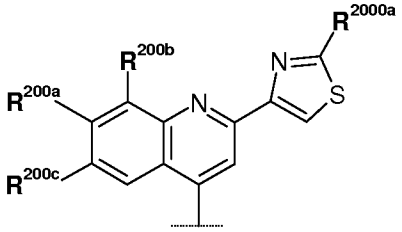
c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH_2-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N($\mathbf{R^{51}}$)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$;

then

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ cannot be



wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ is H, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, –OH, –O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl or -N((C_{1-4})alkyl)$_2$;

$\mathbf{R^{200b}}$, $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ are each independently halogen, cyano, (C_{1-4})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -S-(C_{1-4})alkyl, -SO-(C_{1-4})alkyl, or –SO_2-(C_{1-4})alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either $\mathbf{R^{200b}}$ or $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{200b}}$ or

$\mathbf{R^{200a}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{200c}}$ may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two -CH_2-groups not being directly linked to each other may be

replaced each independently by -O- or N$\mathbf{R^a}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^a}$ is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{2000a}}$ is $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)CO$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)COO$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$, -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2004}}$), or -N($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)CON($\mathbf{R^{2002}}$)($\mathbf{R^{2004}}$), wherein

$\mathbf{R^{2002}}$ is H or methyl;

$\mathbf{R^{2003}}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, wherein said (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl and (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C_{1-3})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{2004}}$ is H or $\mathbf{R^{2003}}$;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

$\mathbf{R^5}$ is selected from **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, and **B**-NH-C(=O)-; wherein **B** is selected from:

(i) (C_{1-10})alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C_{1-6})alkyl, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, -C(=O)$NH_2$, -C(=O)NH$(C_{1-6})$alkyl and -C(=O)N$((C_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;

(ii) (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen,

-COOH, -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -O(C_{1-6})alkyl, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -OH, -NH_2, -NH(C_{1-6})alkyl, -N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$, -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl and -C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)$_2$;

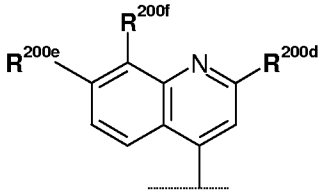
provided that **B** is not (C_{1-10})alkyl unsubstituted, when R^5 is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is (C_{1-8})alkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, each of which are optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O$\mathbf{R^{30}}$, and -C(=O)O$\mathbf{R^{30}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{30}}$ is H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl-;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-**X**-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, wherein **X** is (C_3)alkynyl and $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is (C_6 or C_{10})aryl; or

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is -O-$\mathbf{R^{20}}$ wherein $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



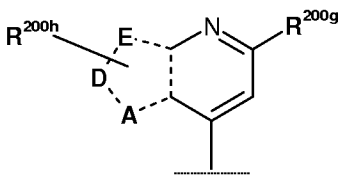
wherein

$\mathbf{R^{200d}}$ is -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{200e}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200f}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl, halogen, -S$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, -$SO_2\mathbf{R^{201}}$, or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl optionally further substituted with (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or phenyl;

or $\mathbf{R^{20}}$ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$\mathbf{R^{200g}}$ is H or -O$\mathbf{R^{201}}$, wherein $\mathbf{R^{201}}$ is (C_{1-6})alkyl or (C_{2-6})alkenyl; and

$\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C_{1-6})alkyl and $-SO_2-(C_{1-6})$alkyl; wherein each $\mathbf{R^{200h}}$ is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is (C_{2-6})alkenyl or (C_{2-6})alkyl;

n is 1;

m is 2; and

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are each independently selected from H, (C_{1-6})alkyl, -O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-; wherein said (C_{1-6})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1-6})alkyl- are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C_{1-6})alkyl; or

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1-6})alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C_{1-6})alkyl, $-NH_2$, -NH(C_{1-4})alkyl, -N$((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$,–COOH, and -COO$(C_{1-6})$alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

18. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

19. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A method of treating or preventing a hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

21. – 22. **(Canceled)**

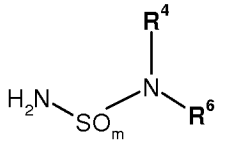
23. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent .

26. **(Previously Presented)** A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:

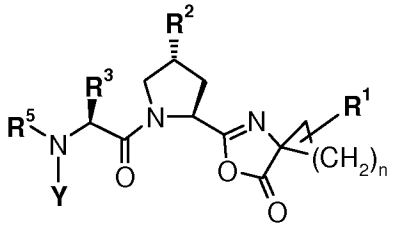
a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein $\mathbf{R^4}$, $\mathbf{R^6}$ and **m** are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

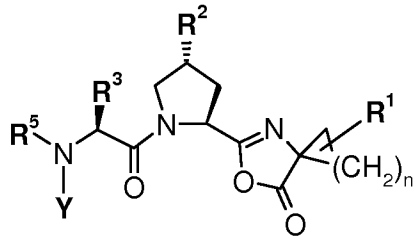
b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):



(III)

wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$, $\mathbf{R^5}$, **Y** and **n** are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

27. **(Original)** An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein $\mathbf{R^1}$, $\mathbf{R^2}$, $\mathbf{R^3}$, $\mathbf{R^5}$, **Y** and **n** are defined as in claim 1.

28. **(Canceled)**